

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that claims 1, 3, 5-6, 13-15, 17-18, 27-28, and 31-32 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would be beneficial in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be further required in this application, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 (740756-2707), under the above order number.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned patent agent at (202) 585-8316.

Respectfully submitted,

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